NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

Cross Wind Stripcropping

(Acre)

Code 589B

DEFINITION

Growing wind-resisting crops in strips alternating with row crops or fallow and arranged at angles to offset adverse wind effects. (Includes any herbaceous vegetative wind barrier that reduces wind velocities of both the leeward and windward, predominantly the leeward, flow of air across a land surface.)

PURPOSES

To control wind erosion, trap snow, and increase stored soil moisture.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On land susceptible to wind erosion that is suitable for snow trapping for soil moisture conservation.

CRITERIA

1. Strip width range:
   Maximum – 20 rods – 330 feet
   Minimum – 6 feet (when using small grain)
   12 feet (when using corn)

2. Alternate strips will be in wind resistant crops such as standing corn, soybean or small grain stubble, grass or legume meadow, fall seeded small grain, or similar crops.

3. Strip direction will be at right angles to the prevailing wind where practical. In other cases, the strip direction will be determined by the field layout for convenience of farming but will comply with plans and specifications.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the use of other practices such as winter crops, conservation tillage, conservation cropping systems, and windbreaks for wind erosion control.

Water Quantity

1. Effects on the water budget, especially on evaporation and transpiration.

Water Quality

1. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment and sediment-attached substances by wind to surface waters.

2. Effects on the use and management of nutrients and pesticides and resulting effects on surface and ground water quality.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Use the Wind Erosion Equation information in Section I-C of the Technical Guide to determine strip widths for various field conditions.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE